

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: UK, PFOR  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S PREVIEW OF VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON, MARCH 10-11

1. CHARGE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR MET WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN THIS MORNING (MARCH 7) ON FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON, TO DETERMINE SUBJECTS WHICH WERE UPPERMOST IN HIS MIND PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. OWEN INDICATED THAT A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WITH SECRETARY VANCE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA (RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, UN VOTING) WITH AN EYE TO NEXT TWO TO THREE MONTHS WAS HIS MOST PRESSING INTEREST. HE SAID THE TIME HAD COME FOR AN "INJECTION OF SERIOUS POLITICAL CONTENT." HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE "CURRENT LINE" (PRESUMABLY FCO THINKING) AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE US, HE HOPED BY TOMORROW, AN ADVANCE OUTLINE OF WHAT HE WILL PUT TO SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON.

2. OWEN STRESSED THAT US AND UK NEEDED TO OPERATE CLOSELY TOGETHER ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES, "THE CLOSER THE BETTER," AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THEY BE SEEN TO BE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER. IN RESPONSE TO AN ALLUSION BY CHARGE TO MORETON'S CALL ON SCHAUFELD MARCH 4 (STATE 49699), OWEN SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD SURELY

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RAISE CHAPTER VII DETERMINATION WITH PRESIDENT, AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO DEVELOP AN AGREED STRATEGY.

3. IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE OWEN REVEALED THAT HE WAS CONTEMPLATING A FAMILIARIZATION TRIP TO AFRICA "OVER EASTER," AND HOPED TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO AS TO MINIMIZE ANY FALSE EXPECTATIONS THAT

IT HERALDED A GREAT NEW INITIATIVE.

4. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, OWEN THOUGHT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD TOUCH BRIEFLY ON THE PLO AND ON THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE, BUT THAT FOR THE MOST PART THE BRITISH WOULD WANT TO HEAR WHAT THE AMERICANS HAD TO SAY.

5. IN HIS TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE, OWEN INTENDS TO PROVIDE ASSESSMENTS ON CURRENT STATUS OF BELIZE AND FALKLANDS AND ALSO HIS VIEWS ON HOW TO HANDLE FRENCH SENSITIVITIES REGARDING US-EC RELATIONS.

6. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, OWEN WANTS TO DISCUSS THE "SMALL PRINT RESERVATIONS" CONTAINED IN HIS MARCH 3 SPEECH (LONDON 3718). HE SAID THESE WERE "SERIOUS POINTS" WHICH HE WANTS TO AMPLIFY IN WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH HE WAS PLEASED THAT BRITISH PRESS HAD NOT FOCUSED ON THEM. (WE HAVE POUCHED COPIES OF SPEECH TO DEPARTMENT AND CHARGE WILL BRING COPIES WITH HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO WASHINGTON MARCH 8.)

7. ON ARMS CONTROL, OWEN SAID BRITISH WERE INTERESTED IN GETTING A LINE ON US THINKING BEYOND SALT II. IF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS CONTEMPLATING ANY CHANGES IN NON-TRANSFER, BRITISH WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS; IF NOT, BRITISH WOULD FIND THAT VERY REASSURING. BRITISH ARE ALSO KEENLY INTERESTED IN NEW ADMINISTRATION'S THINKING ON NUCLEAR REPROCESSING. ALSO MBFR AND CTB.

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8. OWEN NOTED THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON TIMING OR AGENDA OF ECONOMIC SUMMIT. HE THEN QUICKLY TICKED OFF AS OTHER SUBJECTS LIKELY TO BE RAISED IN WASHINGTON: PROTECTIONISM, ESPECIALLY STEEL, MTN, BI-LATERAL AIR AGREEMENT, AND CONCORDE. ON CONCORDE, HE REPEATED WARNING HE HAD GIVEN TO CLARK CLIFFORD (LONDON 3364) THAT US WAS HEADING FOR A "VERY, VERY SERIOUS CLASH WITH FRANCE." IF THE NEW YORK DECISION IS NEGATIVE, HE SAID, PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE OBLIGED TO RAISE SUBJECT, BUT BRITISH PLANNED "NO THEATRICS" AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT INTERRUPT TALKS -- "WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS."

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## Message Attributes

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